

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of any certified copies of priority document(s) provided earlier.

The Office action restricts the invention to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-14, 30, and 31, drawn to a device or apparatus; and
- II. Claims 15-29 and 32-34, drawn to a method.

In response, applicant(s) provisionally elect(s), with traverse, to prosecute group I, claim(s) 1-14, 30, and 31. Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected claim(s) in a divisional or other continuing application.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that the device and the method for making it are so closely related that searching both the device and the method would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner.

**MPEP § 803 - Restriction - When Proper**


... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

The Abstract is amended for non-statutory reasons, to correct one or more informalities, and/or to remove figure label number(s). No new matter is added.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the application on its merits are now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may

best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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